

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 97-583

April 22, 1998

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,  
Rulemaking: Consumer Education  
Program (Chapter 302)

ORDER FINALLY  
ADOPTING RULE AND  
STATEMENT OF FACTUAL  
AND POLICY BASIS

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and HUNT, Commissioners

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In this Order, we finally adopt a rule governing the implementation of a consumer education program to educate the public about the implementation of retail access for electricity and its impact on consumers. On January 30, 1998, the Commission provisionally adopted a rule implementing the consumer education program. Since the rule was denominated as a "major substantive" rule by 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3213(2)(C), it required Legislative approval under 5 M.R.S.A §§ 8071-8074. In compliance with those provisions, the rule was submitted to the Legislature for approval. On March 30, 1998, Governor King signed into law Resolves 1997, ch. 99, which authorizes final adoption of the consumer education rule.

Although Chapter 99 authorizes the final adoption of the consumer education rule, it also requires that two changes be made in the language of the provisional rule. First, the final sentence of Section 5, paragraph B, of the proposed rule must be deleted and replaced with a requirement that the Commission must consider the recommendations of the advisory board when developing and implementing the consumer education plan and program. Second, in Section 6, paragraph B, of the proposed rule, the word "only" must be inserted after the phrase "for informational purposes." The changes required by Chapter 99 have been made in the final rule.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

1. That the attached Chapter 302, Consumer Education Program is hereby finally adopted;
2. That the Administrative Director shall file the finally adopted rule and related materials with the Secretary of State; and
3. That the Administrative Director shall send copies of this Order and attached rule to:

- A. All electric utilities in the State;
- B. All persons who have filed with the Commission within the past year a written request for notices of rulemakings;
- C. All persons on the Commission's list of persons who wish to receive notice of all electric restructuring proceedings;
- D. All persons who have filed comments in Docket No. 97-583; and
- E. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council (20 copies).

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 22nd day of April, 1998.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR:      Welch  
   Nugent  
   Hunt

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